

NEWS RELEASE



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CONVICTED FELON FACES PRISON TERM FOR POSSESSING A FIREARM

**Leesville man ignores federal laws, possesses firearm after
serving time for felony drug charges**

Lafayette, Louisiana . . . United States Attorney Donald W. Washington and ATF Special Agent in Charge David G. Harper announces that CASSETTI D. BROWN, age 39, from Leesville, Louisiana was sentenced last week in federal court to 63 months (5 years) imprisonment to be followed by 3 years supervised release by United States District Judge Rebecca Doherty for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

Brown was indicted in July 2003 and tried by a federal jury in March 2006.

In March of 2002, Louisiana Probation and Parole and agents of the Vernon Parish Narcotics Task Force searched BROWN's Leesville home. During the search they found a loaded Taurus 9mm semiautomatic pistol in a closet of a bedroom where BROWN was sleeping in his mother's residence.

BROWN has two prior felony convictions for possession of cocaine. He was arrested in 1994 and 1995 for possession with intent to distribute cocaine and entered guilty pleas in Vernon Parish and later in Beauregard Parish. It is unlawful for anyone with a prior felony conviction to possess a firearm and/or ammunition.

This case was prosecuted by the United States Attorney's Office as part of Project Safe Neighborhoods. Project Safe Neighborhoods is a nationwide program begun in 2001, and designed to reduce violence in our communities by aggressively using existing federal firearms laws. United States Attorneys, District Attorneys, Sheriffs, Police Chiefs, and state officials have created partnerships to address crimes involving firearms. Generally, any arrest involving a firearm is reviewed immediately by local, state and federal authorities to decide whether the case is best suited for prosecution under state or federal law, or a combination of both. Project Safe Neighborhoods is expected to lead to longer prison terms for violent criminals, and a significant reduction in violent crime. To date, federal prosecutions under Project Safe Neighborhoods in the Western District of Louisiana have led to the incarceration of criminals responsible for violent crimes such as homicides, aggravated assaults, robbery, car jacking, burglary, and drug trafficking.

Sentencing in federal court is determined by the discretion of federal judgesjurisprudence and the governing statute. Parole has been abolished in the federal system.

This case was investigated by the Vernon Parish Narcotics Task Force and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Brett L. Grayson.

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